

Serial No.: 09/880,723
Docket No.: 70655.7800

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated May 25, 2005 within the shortened statutory period for reply. Claims 1-51 were pending in the application.

The Examiner has asserted a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 requiring restriction of the application in the following Groups (along with numerous other species):

- I. Claims 1-30, 40-46, 48-49 and 50-51.
- II. Claims 31-38.
- III. Claims 39 and 47.

Applicants respectfully submits that examination of all currently pending claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicants therefore respectfully request examination of all currently pending claims.

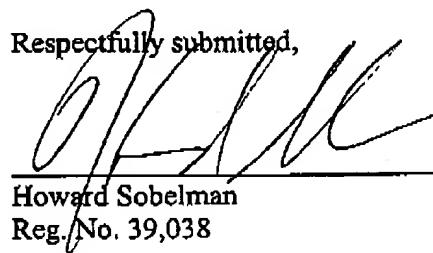
However, Applicants hereby elect Group I, Species N consisting of Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 10-12, 22-24, 27 and 48, for prosecution in this application. Applicants do not traverse, but does not acquiesce to the Examiner's foundation for the Restriction Requirement as set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, the foregoing election is made without waiver, estoppel or without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims.

The foregoing amendment conforms this application to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated October 18, 2005. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance,

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Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below. No new matter is added in this Reply. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814, including any required extension fees.

Respectfully submitted,


Howard Sobelman
Reg. No. 39,038

Dated: October 24, 2005

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
400 E. Van Buren
One Arizona Center
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
Phone: 602-382-6228
Fax: 602-382-6070
Email: hsobelman@swlaw.com